Caltrans

Construction Storm Water Pollution Prevention Bulletin

Volume 1/Issue No. 9 September 1, 1997

The Storm Water Pollution Prevention Bulletin is prepared by the Storm Water Compliance Review Task Force to aid all projects and operations in maintaining compliance with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit requirements.

Storm Water Discharges...

Construction Projects Winter Season Preparedness Activities

With the fall season upon us, it is time to get construction projects ready for the winter season. This year the National Weather Service is predicting an "El Niño" condition which can mean a wet year. Proper preparation and planning can make compliance much easier.

Dust control, tracking control, and non-storm water discharge BMPs must be deployed year round. Soil stabilization and sediment control BMPs must be deployed at least 20 days prior to the winter season dates shown in the Contract Special Provisions.

Update SWPP/ WPCP

The Resident Engineer may begin preparing for the winter season by reviewing the approved SWPPP or WPCP and identifying any necessary changes for the contractor to address in an amendment. Questions regarding specific permit requirements may be directed to District Environmental personnel.

Field Preparation

While the paperwork is being updated, the contractor may begin implementation of the winter season BMPs by considering the following:

- Remove plywood or dust covers from inlets and install winter season BMPs.
- Examine the schedule of construction activities and arrange to minimize exposed soil.
- Ensure that all non-active soil-disturbed areas are protected.
- Stockpile erosion control materials to deploy for active soil-disturbed areas when rain is anticipated.

During the winter season, each active, soil-disturbed, construction location, including stockpiled materials at storage or staging areas, shall be no more than 4 hectacres (10 acres) in size, unless otherwise specified.

Site Protection

The following are typical winter season BMPs:

- Active soil disturbed areas (and non-active areas with the potential to erode due to past construction activities) are required to be stabilized per the special provisions. The contractor must protect active construction locations at the end of each working day, with soil stabilization practices and sediment controls, unless fair weather is predicted through the following work day.
- Project perimeter discharge locations must be protected with silt fence, gravel bags, straw bales, or other similar devices to remove silt from storm water runoff.
- Storm drain inlets downstream of disturbed areas require protection from sediment intrusion with sand bags, straw bales, sediment traps or other inlet protection devices.
- Reduction of water velocity at storm drain outlets may be required in order to prevent scour and minimize downstream erosion.
- The entrances/exits of the site must be adequately stabilized to reduce sediment tracking onto streets. A regular sweeping schedule may be appropriate.

Finally, the Resident Engineer should assure that the contractor has adequate supplies of material on hand to maintain and repair storm water pollution prevention facilities throughout the winter season. The RE should also make sure that the contractor has an on-going inspection and maintenance program in place.

Additional information is available in the Caltrans Storm Water Quality Handbooks.
Questions or comments may be directed to:

Ken Keaton
Caltrans HQ Environmental Engineering
(916) 653-4947
or
Melinda McCoy
Consultant Team
(714) 567-2588

Holmes & Narver
VAN CLEEF & ASSOCIATES, INC.
AEI·CASC